## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT Page 3

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please rewrite the first sentence of the application to read as follows:

## -- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of serial no. 09/661,627, filed September 13, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of application serial number 09/601,573, filed August 4, 2000; which is a 35 USC § 371 application of International Application PCT/SE99/00128, filed 01 February 1999.--

Page 1, after the title, but prior to the first line of the first paragraph, please insert the following:

## --Background of the Invention

1. Field of the Invention--.

Page 1, between the first and second paragraphs, please insert the following:

--2. <u>Description of the Related Art</u>--.

Page 1, after the second paragraph, please insert the following:

--Summary of the Invention--.

Please amend page 1, third paragraph as follows:

Prefabricated floorboards which at their edges are provided with groove and tongue are well known nowadays. As these are very easy to install it is possible for the normal handy man to achieve this. These type of floors can be constituted of massive wood, fibre board or particle board. These are often provided with a surface layer, such as lacquer or some sort of laminate. The boards are most often installed by gluing them together via their groove and tongue. It is desired to join the separate boards so closely that the joint becomes practically invisible, which increases the moisture resistance radically. The usable life of the installed floor is hereby also increased. In order to achieve a tight joint, it is essential that glue is used excessively. The clearance in the joint will therefore have to be relatively large in order to be able to force the boards together without having to use special equipment due to the forces that would be needed

otherwise. A [to] small clearance will cause a hydraulic resistance caused by the glue[d] captured inside the groove during the joining. The clearance needed will, therefore, [however] cause a random discrepancy in the levels between adjacent floorboards. This discrepancy in levels will lead to an increased wear at the joint and that moisture may penetrate the joint. The decorative wear layer, often constituted by lacquer or laminate will hereby often be worn down closest to the joint. The wood fibre will, hereby, be naked closest to the joint, which, in addition to [be] being unsightly, also may cause the fibres to swell when exposed to moisture. This causes the surface layer to rise closest to the edges whereby these edges will be exposed to further wear, which will decrease the useful life of the floor radically.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 as follows:

It has, through the present invention, quite unexpectedly been possible to solve the above mentioned problems so that the risk for error during installation is radically reduced, whereby the average usable life of the floor, with a guiding means according to the present invention, is considerably increased. Accordingly, the invention relates to a guiding means at a joint between boards. The joint comprises groove and tongue preferably intended to be joined by means of glue. The tongue includes at least one guiding wedge whereby a fitting clearance between the tongue and the groove includes a first fitting clearance and a second, guiding, fitting clearance. The second, guiding fitting clearance is obtained through the guiding wedges which are arranged parallel to the extension of the joint, whereby the first fitting clearance comprises the main part of the fit and the second, guiding fitting clearance is in the range 0.1 - 1 mm, while the second, guiding fitting clearance is in the range 0.01 - 0.2 mm. The tongue of the joint is provided with at least one equalizing [equalising] recess so that at least one equalizing [equalising] cavity is formed in the joint, which equalizing [equalising] cavity receives surplus glue used during the joining. The first fitting clearance is preferably in the rang 0.1 - 0.5 mm, while the second, guiding fitting clearance is in the range 0.2 - 0.1 mm.

Page 3, between the first and second paragraphs, please insert the following:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--.

Page 4, prior to the first paragraph, please insert the following:

-- Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments--.

Please amend page 4, first paragraph as follows:

Accordingly, figure 1 shows, in perspective view seen from above, a first embodiment of a guiding means at a joint according to the invention. The guiding means comprises groove 1 and tongue 2 which is intended to be joined by using glue. The tongue 2 comprises guiding wedges 3 on the upper and lower sides. The fitting clearance between the groove 1 and tongue 2 includes a first and a second, guiding, fitting clearance, which second, guiding, fitting clearance (x) is obtained by the guiding wedges 3. The first fitting clearance (y) forms the main part of the fit while the second, guiding, fitting clearance (x) forms a smaller part of the fit. The first fitting clearance (y) is approximately 0.2 mm while the second, guiding fitting clearance (x) is approximately 0.05 mm. The guiding wedges 3 are arranged parallel to the extension of the joint. The same embodiment is shown assembled in figure 2. The respective surfaces of the joint are provided with recesses 6 (see e.g., Fig. 6) so that [equalising] equalizing cavities 4 are formed in the joint. The [equalising] equalizing cavities 4 are intended to, receive the glue used at assembly. The guiding means comprises a part of boards, intended to, together, form a floor whereby the core of the board is constituted by fibre board or a particle board and at least the upper side of the board is constituted by a decorative thermosetting laminate.